

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding non-final Office Action mailed November 3, 2004. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and pending claims are respectfully requested.

I. Art Rejections

Applicant's original claims have been rejected in view of various art references. As is indicated in the foregoing, however, each of Applicant's independent claims has been amended or canceled. In view of those amendments and cancellations, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections contained in the Office Action are moot. However, Applicant briefly discusses Applicant's claims in the following for the Examiner's consideration.

With reference to independent claim 1, Applicant recites (emphasis added):

1. A method for sharing user information, comprising:
receiving from a user an identification of a level of access that
is to be extended to a web site host;
*assigning a user code that is pertinent to the identified level of
access;*
*providing the user code to the web site host when the user
visits a web site maintained by the web site host;*
*receiving from the web site host a request for information
concerning the user and the user code that was provided to the web
site host;*
*determining a level of access for which the web site host is
authorized from the user code received from the web site host; and*
transmitting user information to the web site host that pertains
to the user code.

Applicant notes that none of the cited references teach or suggest, either alone or in combination, a method whereby a user code that is pertinent to an identified level of access is assigned, the user code is provided to the web site host when the user visits a web site, a request for information concerning the user and the user code that was provided to the web site host is received from the web site host, and a level of access for which the web site host is authorized is determined from the user code received from the web site host.

Referring to independent claim 16, none of the cited references teach or suggest, either alone or in combination, a system including means for assigning a user code that is pertinent to a level of access selected by a user that is to be extended to a web site host, means for providing the user code to the web site host when the user visits a web site maintained by the web site host, means for receiving the user code from the web site host, and means for determining a level of access for which the web site host is authorized from the user code received from the web site host.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that Applicant's claims are allowable over the prior art. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the rejections be withdrawn.

II. Canceled Claims

As identified above, claims 2-3, 8, 12, 14-15, 17, and 19 have been canceled from the application through this Response without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer. Applicant reserves the right to present these canceled claims, or variants thereof, in continuing applications to be filed subsequently.

III. New Claims

As identified above, claims 22-26 have been added into the application through this Response. Applicant respectfully submits that these new claims describe an invention novel and unobvious in view of the prior art of record and, therefore, respectfully requests that these claims be held to be allowable.

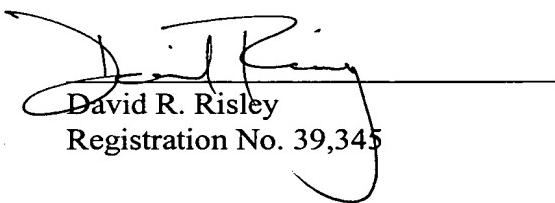
IV. The “Schneier” Reference

As a final point, Applicant notes that no patent or patent application number has been noted for the “Schneier” reference, which was used to reject Applicant’s original claims 4 and 12. Applicant notes further that there are more than 50 U.S. patents and patent applications with “Schneier” as an inventor. Applicant can therefore not directly respond to the rejections under Schneier. For this reason, Applicant submits that a further Office Action, if issued, should not be final.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that Applicant's pending claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on

1-12-05

Mary Meegan
Signature